

Narrative Summary – December 2017

The average temperature for December 2017 was colder than normal, averaging 30.6°F, 0.5° below normal (31.1°F). The warmest December (1957) averaged 38.5°F, while the coldest (1985) averaged 21.0°F. The following daily temperatures records were established during December 2017.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>New Record</u>	<u>Old Record</u>	<u>Year</u>
18	High Maximum	58	56	1999+

Precipitation for December 2017 totaled 0.50 inches, 42% of normal (1.20 inches). The wettest December (1996) received 3.69 inches, while the driest December (2013) received 0.07 inches. Snowfall for December 2017 totaled 2.8 inches, compared to a normal of 5.9 inches. The snowiest December on record (1996) received 22.6 inches. Of note was the number of days with freezing rain in December 2017. There were six days with freezing rain, which was the 2nd most for any December. The record for December is eight days, set in 1985. The freezing rain event December 28-29, 2017 was particularly bad with 0.20" of freezing rain occurring at the Hanford weather station, and 0.60" reported in Richland.

The average wind speed for December 2017 was 4.9 miles per hour (mph), which was 1.0 mph below normal (5.9 mph). The windiest December on record (1968) averaged 8.3 mph, while the December with the lightest winds (1985) averaged 3.3 mph. The peak gust for December 2017 was from the west-southwest at 36 mph on December 30. The record peak gust for December is 74 mph in 2006.

Calendar year 2017 averaged 53.2°F, which is 0.7°F below normal (53.9°F). The warmest year (2015) averaged 57.5°F. The coolest year (1985) averaged 49.6°F. The hottest temperature during 2017 was 107°F on July 7. The coldest temperature was -7°F on January 13. Precipitation for 2017 totaled 8.60 inches, 120% of normal (7.14 inches). The wettest year (1995) received 12.31 inches, while the driest (1976) received 2.99 inches.

A few notable numbers were reached in 2017. The number of days with precipitation totaled 145 days. This is the 5th most number of days with precipitation in a given year. The record is 166 such days set in 1950. The number of days with a maximum temperature of at least 90°F was a record high 80 days in 2017. The previous record was 79 such days set in 1967. The monthly station pressure for December averaged 29.568 inches. This is the second highest average monthly station pressure for December. This is also the third highest for any month of the year. The record for highest average monthly station pressure for any month is 29.638 inches set in December 1985.

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet.

Address: <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/hms>

Note: The data in this summary pertains specifically to the Hanford Meteorology Station (HMS), which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Richland, WA. No attempt should be made to infer meteorological conditions at other locations from these data.